Development of technologies in electronics entertainment and information

208. SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what efforts are being made to encourage the development of technologies in electronic entertainment and information;

(b) what is the extent to which India has suceeded in developing high-density T.V. Direct-Broadcast satellite and liquid crystal flat screen T.V. to revolutionise the information exchange;

(c) whether efforts are also being made to develop antenna for obtaining T.V. transmission from all over the World; and

(d) if so, what are the details of progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Following steps have been taken to make available a variety of consumer electronic products in the country and to improve radio and TV broadcast services:—

1. Radios, Tape Recorders/Two-in-ones, Black and White and Colour TV sets are being manufactured in the country, Letters of Intent have been issued for manufacture of VCRs/VCPs in the country.

2 A Working Group on Consumer Electronics under Technology Development Scheme of Department of Electronics (DDE) has been set up to take note of international technology trends, current status in India and bringing out the gap areas and recommend necessary action.

3. Large number of satellite fed low power and very low power transmitters have been developed and set up.

4. Black and white equipment at a number of Doordarshan Kendras have been replaced by modern colour equipment including latest generation of Vedeo tape recorders and tele-prompters.

5. Doordarshan has set up a Central Production Centre equipped with state-of-the-art equipment at Delhi for generation of quality programme.

6. A forward looking group has been constituted for advising the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for analysing the technological trends and their relevance and application to Doordarshan/All India Radio as also the short term requirement of technological development in the electronic media and examination of hardware and software requirement.

(b) 1. High Definition Television is, at present, under development in some countries. Further, investments involevd in the introduction of high definition television are very high and a worldwide production standard has not been established as yet Therefore, the introduction of high definition TV transmission in India is not foreseen in the near future'

2. A large number of Direct Reception community viewing TV sets (S-Band) have been manufactured indigenously and installed in the country.

3. The prices of Liquid Crystal Display (Flat Screen) TV sets are still very high in the world market. The introduction of such TV sets in the country has therefore not yet been attempted.

(c) and (d) TV Receive Only Terminals (TVROs) including dish antennas capable of receiving signals from satellite in S and C Band are being indigenously manufactured. These TVROs are capable of receiving signals in S & C Band, from any satellite whose footprints are available in India.